

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Valdemars LAMBERGS

1. On 2 March 1950, the Latvian newspaper, "Latvju Zinas" in Stockholm Sweden, accused Valdemars LAMBERGS, editor of the newspaper, "Latvija" in Germany, of being a Russian agent for the MVD during the first Soviet Occupation of Latvia (1940-41). Subject denied this, asserting that "Latvju Zinas" (a political opposition group) had always attacked the nationalist members of the Latvian Central Council, the Latvian National Council, and the Latvian Central Committee. He stated he had been subject to several severe interrogations by the MVD from 5 May 1941 to 9 June 1941, and claimed this could be verified by arrest documents found in the MVD office in Jelgava, Latvia. He further stated he was active in the underground in the regional committee of Zemgale of the Latvian National Council. LAMBERGS asserted that this could be attested to by Konstantins JAKSTE, Chairman of the Latvian Central Council, and by the nationalistic Latvians at Jelgava. Further, LAMBERGS stated that "Latvju Zinas" would have to answer to the law.
2. "Latvju Zinas", in an article dated 23 November 1950, answered that they would be glad to go before a law court since they possessed positive proof of their accusation. Inquiries made among former members of the Latvian Central Council in Zemgale revealed that LAMBERGS' claims were untrue. A "well-informed Latvian resident" of Stockholm stated the following facts to be the case. Through threats and possibly "third degree methods", LAMBERGS was intimidated into consenting to become an informant. However, the information he furnished was evidently without value to the Cheka. (Even his political opponents among the Latvians do not claim that he has betrayed any secrets or that as a result of his information any Latvian has been or could have been arrested by the Cheka). In the spring of 1941, the Cheka had gradually become more exacting and, failing to receive valuable information from LAMBERGS, had submitted him to prolonged hearings. Shortly before the outbreak of the Russo-German War, LAMBERGS took to the woods and hid until the Soviets had been expelled from Latvia. 1950 report states that when the Soviets had overrun Latvia, all lawyers were either arrested or prevented from following their profession. LAMBERGS was permitted, during the period of the Soviet occupation, to continue his law practice, a situation which has never been explained. Subject was tried before a German military court whose findings stated that LAMBERGS had given information to the Soviet secret police, but because of the relative unimportance of the information, he was released. Source of this information had considered LAMBERGS as a man of questionable integrity, and perhaps even an agent of the Soviets, although he (source of the information) himself had no personal knowledge.
3. Other unconfirmed 1950 information stated that LAMBERGS' brother was given a post as station-master during the occupation and the brother's son, Valdis LAMBERGS, was a "Russian agent" who held a high political position during 1940-41, subsequently fleeing from the Germans to Russia.

SECRET

[Handwritten signature and scribbles]

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

where he is presently alleged to be. During 1940-41, Valdis was reported to have a strong leaning for Communism. Also it was rumored that Valdis was parachuted into Latvia by the Russians during the German occupation. LAMBERGS reportedly had no connections with his nephew.

4. One Alexander ADOLINS stated LAMBERGS reported to the Latvian Central Committee that he, LAMBERGS, was in the employ of an unknown American intelligence agency, that he contacts an unknown American in Augsburg, whom he had met on two previous occasions, and that although he had been granted a visa under the DP program to enter the US, he would remain indefinitely in Germany to work for this American intelligence agency. He is alleged to have stated further that his work for this agency is a stepping stone towards employment by a higher intelligence branch in Washington, D.C. Later, LAMBERGS reported that he was no longer working for the American intelligence agency since that agency had received a letter (contents unknown) from Washington, D.C. advising them subject was no longer to be employed by them. LAMBERGS did not know the reason for this termination of employment. LAMBERGS was dropped as an informant by EUCOM on 14 April 1950. A CIC evaluation of LAMBERGS stated, "If subject was in the employ of an American intelligence agency, he had compromised himself very thoroughly and efficiency and value have been greatly reduced by the allegation that he was a secret informant for the MVD in Latvia. Subject does not command the respect that he once had among the Latvian refugee circles."

5. LAMBERGS visited Sweden in connection with his position in the Latvian Information Bureau. Funds of the newspaper "Latvja" were at his disposal. Upon LAMBERGS' return to Germany, it was discovered that much of the money could not be accounted for and that the newspaper was in danger of bankruptcy. At the next meeting it was decided to make Latvian economist, Alexander ADOLINS, director and editor of the newspaper to prevent bankruptcy of the paper. The explanation offered for the use the money was put to in Sweden, was that "a traveling editor has many duties and responsibilities in the entertainment line" and made it appear that he had spent the money in this manner. Subject had also published propaganda pamphlets which had reduced the working capital of the newspaper by a considerable amount. This was done without the approval of the Latvian Central Committee and has caused subject to stand in disfavor with many of the Latvians.

6. Subject was receiving reports of a positive intelligence nature from sources in Sweden. These reports were written in either English or Latvian and concerned the situation in Russian-occupied Latvia at the time. Code symbols were used in these reports which are believed to be code designations for names. These reports were allegedly first-hand information obtained from within Latvia. They were sent to LAMBERGS from Sweden, where it is believed they were composed. Also, subject allegedly received mail under the cover name, V. Vacseniaks, addressed

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

to the Information Bureau of the Latvian Central Committee. The mail received under this name was alleged to be espionage reports which, in turn, were forwarded to an A. MILRUDA who was said to be associated with an American intelligence agency. LAMBERGS maintained correspondence with BRUNDY ~~WERNING~~ in Sweden; both belong to the Social Democrats.

7. LAMBERGS claimed in 1949 that his group in Sweden had contact with Latvia; he expressed interest in contacting an American intelligence agency, whereupon an OSO representative met LAMBERGS. The latter had only some anti-Soviet material to offer. When the OSO representative declined this material, expressing interest only in operational information, LAMBERGS was taken aback by the request. However, he said he would check with other Latvian leaders in the Western Zones. Contact was maintained with subject for OPC. However, the latter lost interest in LAMBERGS in March 1950. LAMBERGS and one Artur NEPARTS were said to have tied themselves in with various intelligence organizations, and there was a no talk of subject's being involved in a Latvian agent net; however OPC's representative had no knowledge of LAMBERGS nor the personalities involved.

8. With regard to information furnished by LAMBERGS, OSO informed OPC in a memorandum dated 3 October 1950 that "LAMBERGS has provided to these offices miscellaneous items of information, which appear authentic; however, they are dated and may have been secured from refugees and not from contacts with the Latvian underground as desired." This memo was inspired when on 26 September 1950, LAMBERGS wrote a letter addressed to the DCI offering "objective information of political, military, economic events and facts on the territory of Latvia." LAMBERGS offered his personal services as well as those of his organization, stating at the time that "we have connections with the groups of partisans operating in Latvia, as well as the centers of the resistance movements, getting rather regularly information from behind the curtain. Information was also sent by us to Latvia. We had never other resources as only our own." LAMBERGS was turned down, at the time, because "he was a minor controversial personality among Latvian emigres and is not too well regarded by any one group. While these accusations of his too close collaboration from 1940-41 with the Soviets, although may have some truth in them, it is not necessarily damning when viewed in the context of the event at the time. LAMBERGS is of no interest to us because any association with him will evoke severe political repercussions among Latvian anti-Soviet forces and because he does not appear to have any compensating qualifications or capabilities which would outweigh that one big disadvantage. At one time he was an informant for CIC, but was dropped apparently for this very reason."

9. LAMBERGS has, in the United States, suggested at one of the meetings of the American Latvian Association (ALA) that all Latvians in the United States leave their present church affiliations and support a Latvian Church in the United States. In view of the fact that many Latvian emigres in the United States were sponsored by local churches, this suggestion was strongly opposed.

~~SECRET~~

26